[30th October 1933

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" Are not the panchayats spending more money than the regular union boards? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" Notice, Sir."

Local Self-Government

Reasons for the supersession of the Bezwada Municipal Council.

* 132 *Q.*—Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the Bezwada municipality was superseded;

(*b*) whether it was because it failed to pass its budget before 31st March 1933;

(*c*) how many and which of the municipalities and local boards did not pass their budgets before 31st March 1933;

(*d*) why were they not superseded and why was Bezwada municipality alone singled out for supersession;

(*e*) what the date was of supersession of the Bezwada municipality and what the date was of the Kistna District Board elections;

(*f*) when was the order of supersession passed and when was it notified in the Gazette;

(*g*) whether it is not a fact that the budget of the Bezwada municipality was passed soon after the notice to show cause why it should not be superseded was served on it;

(*h*) whether it is not a fact that 20 out of 32 councillors, who formed chairman's party put in a petition that the Council should not be superseded, especially in view of the fact that a Commissioner was shortly to be appointed;

(*i*) whether a deputation waited on the Chief Minister at Ootacamund and showed cause why the Council should not be superseded; and

(*j*) whether the failure to pass the budget before the end of March was the sole ground mentioned in the notice to show cause why the Council should not be superseded?

A.—(*a*) The grounds on which the Bezwada Municipal Council was superseded are stated in G.O. No. 1387, L. & M., dated 7th April 1933, and paragraph 1 of G.O. No. 1589, L. & M., dated 25th April 1933. Copies of the orders referred to are placed on the table. [a]

(*b*) One of the several reasons was that the council persistently refused to pass the budget for 1933–34, in spite of a clear warning from Government.

(*c*) So far as information is available, eight municipalities (Guntur, Bezwada, Palni, Palacole, Vizagapatam, Vaniyambadi, Tiruppattur and Chittoor), four District Boards (East Godavari, Madura, Malabar and Nellore) and fourteen taluk boards did not pass their budgets before 31st March 1933.

---

[a] Printed as Appendix VII on pages 123–125 infra.

30th October 1933]

(d) As already stated, the failure to pass the budget before 31st March 1933 was not the only reason why Bezwada Municipal Council was superseded. There were several other cogent reasons which did not exist in the case of other local bodies.

(e) 25th April 1933 and 2nd May 1933 respectively.

(f) The order was issued on 25th April 1933 and was notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the same day.

(g) The Chairman informed Government that the budget was passed at a meeting of the council held on 12th April 1933 which was attended by 15 councillors only. Government also received a telegram and a petition from 17 councillors of the opposite faction to the effect that they abstained from attending the meeting, apprehending a recurrence of the disorder and free fight between opposing factions of the council, which disgraced the proceedings of the council on 31st March 1933.

(h) The Chairman presented a petition to that effect and stated that it had the support of 20 councillors.

(i) Yes.

(j) Vide answer to clauses (a), (b) and (d).

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" In answer to clause (d) it is stated ' There were several other cogent reasons ' why such a step was not taken in the case of the other municipalities and taluk boards. May I request the hon. the Chief Minister to state on the floor of this House the cogent reasons that existed in the case of those municipalities and taluk boards? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" In other cases, it was short delay in passing and sending the budget, but in those cases it is the refusal of the local bodies concerned to pass the budgets."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know whether the hon. the Chief Minister is aware of the fact that the Bezwada municipality had passed its budget immediately after the receipt of the Government Order asking them to show cause why they should not be superseded if they did not pass the budget for the year 1933–34? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" The answer is given there. Immediately after the orders, they refused to pass the budget. Subsequently, during the absence of the majority of councillors, the remaining councillors passed the budget."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Did not the delay complained of occur in the regime of the previous chairman? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" No, Sir."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know the date on which the Government sent their notice asking the municipality to have their budget estimates passed? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I must ask for notice."

[30th October 1933

Mr. V. T. Arasu :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister the date on which the meeting of the Bezwada municipality was held at which the budget estimates were adopted? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. V. T. Arasu :—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister is aware that not more than one week had elapsed between the receipt of the notice of Government and the passing of the budget estimates? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" When the order was issued the municipality actually rejected the budget; subsequently they passed it."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar :—" Is the hon. the Minister proposing to supersede any other municipalities? "

Service record of Mr. B. Adiseshiah, Special Officer, Bezwada municipality.

* 133 Q.—Rai Sahib C. Kolanda Reddi : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. B. Adiseshiah, the Special Officer of Bezwada municipality, is only an acting tahsildar and a permanent clerk;

(b) why a Deputy Collector was not appointed as Special Officer of the Bezwada municipality; and

(c) whether he is functioning now both as receiver of Bobbili villages and as Special Officer of the Bezwada municipality?

A.—(a) No; he is a permanent Tahsildar.

(b) Because the finances of the municipality could not afford a special officer of the grade of Deputy Collector.

(c) Yes.

Mr. V. T. Arasu :—" May I know whether the Government have received any complaint from the residents of either Guntur or Kistna district making certain allegations against this officer while he was Tahsildar of the Guntur district? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" I have no information."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister whether Mr. Adiseshiah is employed by the court as a Receiver of Bobbili villages or is he a private employee of the hon. the Raja of Bobbili? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" He was appointed by the District Court as a Receiver."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Is he then part-time servant so far as Bezwada municipality was concerned? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Does he therefore draw some remuneration as the Receiver of Bobbili villages? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" He was drawing remuneration for his work."